

22. GLANDINA MONILIFERA, Pfr. *Glan. testá fusiformi-ovatá, tenui, pellucidá, regulariter costulato-striatá, costulis in medio anfractús ultimi evanescentibus, fulvo-roseá, lineis remotis rufis pallidè marginatis ornatá; spirá brevi, conicá; suturá eleganter et confer-tim granulosa; anfractibus 7 planiusculis, ultimo  $\frac{3}{5}$  longitudinis subequante, ventroso; columellá vix arcuatá, basi abruptè truncatá; aperturá angustá, semiovali.*

Long. 29, diam.  $14\frac{1}{2}$  mill.

Locality, mountains of Coban, Vera Cruz, Central America. (Coll. Cuming.)

A number of Birds'-skins from Australia were presented to the Society by Jeremiah Olive, Esq.

The Secretary exhibited to the Meeting a specimen of Sand Grouse, *Tyrhaptés paradoxus*, and five specimens of Mammals (all of which were new to the Society's collection), from the Altai Mountains of Siberia, viz. :—

*Meriones opimus,*  
*Aspalax Zokar,*  
*Mustela Altaica,*  
*Dipus Jaculus,*  
*Mygale moschata.*

Mr. Gould laid upon the table a series of Terns, and characterized a new species :—

STERNA GRACILIS. *St. summo capite et nuchá posteriore saturatè nigris; lateribus nuchæ et parte inferiore sericeo-albis; pectore et abdomine leviter rosaceis; rostro carnicolore, apice brunneo-nigro; pedibus aureo-fuscis.*

Crown of the head, nape and back of the neck deep black; sides of the neck and all the under surface silky white, with a blush of rosy red on the breast and abdomen; back, wings and tail light grey, becoming darker on the primaries; irides brownish red; bill flesh-colour, except at the tip, where it is washed with blackish brown; feet orange-red.

Total length, 13 inches; bill,  $2\frac{1}{8}$ ; wing,  $8\frac{1}{2}$ ; tail,  $6\frac{1}{2}$ ; tarsi,  $\frac{3}{4}$ .

*Hab.* The Houtmann's Abrolhos, off the western coast of Australia.

#### MICROSCOPICAL SOCIETY.

Oct. 15, 1845.—J. S. Bowerbank, Esq., F.R.S. &c., in the Chair.

A paper by H. Deane, Esq., being a continuation of a former communication, read at the last meeting of the Society, "On Fossil *Xanthidia* found in Chalk," was read.

After a brief summary of the former paper, in which he stated that various species of the genus *Xanthidium* had been found by him in the Folkstone chalk, Mr. Deane went on to state that this discovery, by affording the means of isolating and mounting these bodies in various ways for examination, suggested to him the possibility of ascertaining their true nature. Their minuteness and other obvious

circumstances prevented their chemical examination, and consequently they could only be operated upon mechanically. Their shape is that of a flattened sphere, the major part of them closely resembling some of the gemmules of sponges, most of them having a circular opening. The arms of all appear to be closed at the ends and not tubular, as has been supposed, from the examination of some of the flint specimens under pressure in water between two pieces of glass: they were torn asunder in the same manner as a horny or cartilaginous substance would be, and the arms in contact with the glass were bent; some, after maceration in water for several weeks, became quite flaccid, thus entirely disproving their siliceous nature. On the contrary, there is every reason to suppose them to have been of a horny or cartilaginous nature. Some other bodies resembling the husks of peas were also observed, which appear to be identical with the *Pixidicula* in flints; but these, although agreeing in colour, he does not consider to have any relation to the *Xanthidia*, but, from their close resemblance to sponge-gemmules, to be some animal or animals in a progressive state of development.

Another paper by the same gentleman, "On a mode of isolating the siliceous shells of Infusorial animals found in the Ichaboe Guano," was also read. After premising that the guano from Ichaboe was soon found to contain siliceous shells of microscopic animals, allied to those brought from Richmond in Virginia, and from Bermuda, he stated that the extreme difficulty of finding them in the ordinary mode induced him to try whether, by decomposing the guano by means of nitric acid, more satisfactory results might not be obtained. The experiment was successful, and the following is the method he employed. Take any quantity of pure Ichaboe guano, and wash it by repeated ablutions of distilled water until the water is no longer coloured, observing after each addition of water that it must be well-stirred two or three times and allowed to settle for some hours. When sufficiently washed, a small quantity of hydrochloric acid is to be added to the water last used. This dissolves some portion of the guano with effervescence, and causes a more perfect subsidence of that portion which it does not act upon. After this, allow sufficient time for the deposit to become well-settled down; then the clear liquor being poured off as closely as possible without loss of the sediment, a quantity of strong nitric acid in the proportion of two acid ounces to every ounce by weight of the guano employed is to be added; a strong effervescence results, which is to be assisted by its being placed in a warm situation at a temperature of about 200° for six hours, during which time the greater part of the guano will be dissolved. After allowing it to stand in a cool place for twenty-four hours, pour off the acid liquor and wash the sediment with plenty of distilled water. The fine portion of this sediment will contain all the siliceous shells of the guano, perfectly freed from extraneous matter.